



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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September 2, 2021

Delivered electronically to irjapear@comcast.net

Subject: Complaint regarding Misipati Semi Bird, PDC Case 97850

Dear Brigid Nelson:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 18, 2021. The complaint alleged that Misipati Semi Bird (the “Respondent”), a candidate for School Director for Richland School District 400, may have violated WAC 390-16-105 by raising more than \$5,000, thereby exceeding the mini-reporting contribution limit.

Your complaint also alleges that the Respondent may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 by failing to report contributions and expenditures, as required for a candidate that no longer qualifies for the mini-reporting option. PDC staff reviewed the allegations and the filing history of the Respondent and found the following:

- On April 22, 2021, the Respondent filed a *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report) with the PDC and selected the Mini Reporting option.
- Under the Mini Reporting option, candidates and their authorized committees are prohibited from raising and spending more than \$5,000 in the aggregate and may not receive more than \$500 in aggregate contributions from any one source “*other than the candidate.*”
- Candidates that select the Mini Reporting option on their registration are not required to file campaign finance reports disclosing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken by the campaign and are exempt from the reporting requirements found in RCW 42.17A.225 through .240.
- On June 12, 2021, the Respondent contacted the PDC in writing and requested permission to change his campaign’s reporting option from mini to full, effective June 12, 2021. The process to change reporting options from Mini to Full also involves notifying opposing candidate(s) and submitting C-3 & C-4 reports disclosing the campaign’s contributions & expenditures to date.
- Per the above requirement, the Respondent’s campaign filed several reports showing that, between May 20, 2021 and July 15, 2021, the Respondent made a series of in-kind contributions/loans and direct in-kind contributions to his own campaign, which were expended for campaign signs, printing and “Presscats” respectively. The manner in which the above information was initially disclosed on the C-3 and C-4 reports gave the erroneous

impression that the candidate's campaign had exceeded the Mini Reporting limits, when in fact it had not.

- The Respondent worked with PDC staff and subsequently amended the contribution and expenditure information disclosed on the C-3 and C-4 reports, making the necessary technical corrections prior to the change from Mini to Full Reporting being approved by the PDC's Executive Director, Peter Lavallee.
- The Respondent did not appear on the August 3, 2021, Primary Election ballot, and the Respondent's request for a change from the Mini to Full Reporting option was granted on August 27, 2021.
- As of the date of this letter, the Respondent's campaign has reported total contributions of \$4,815.06, an in-kind contribution of \$330.50 (from the Respondent), and expenditures totaling \$4,933.62.

The Respondent is a first-time candidate who worked closely with PDC staff to file the necessary reports and made a good faith effort to comply with the requirements for changing from the Mini to the Full Reporting option. All of the initial and amended C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Respondent between July 26 and August 25, 2021 are available for public review more than 64 days before the November 2, 2021 General Election.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and WAC 390-37-060(1)(a).

If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s

Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

cc: Misipati Semi Bird